Message Text

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, TU, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS: TURKEY VS. WALDHEIM

REF: (A) ANKARA 3488 (B) ANKARA 3489 (C) USUN 1866

1. IN CALL ON MFA CYPRUS-GREECE DIRGEN TULUMEN MAY 10, POL COUNSELOR RAISED QUESTION OF WALDHEIM'S PROPOSAL TO SEND GALINDO POHL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF BASIS FOR CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. POL COUNS SAID THAT AFTER GETTING PRIMIN ECEVIT'S EXPLANATION OF THE TURKISH POSITION (REFS A AND B), THE EMBASSY LEARNED THAT THE GOT'S POSITION HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS REFUSAL TO RECEIVE GALINDO PHL (REF C). THE EMBASSY'S REACTION WAS THAT THIS NEGATIVE PHRASING OF THE GOT POSITION WOULD BE INTERPRETED ELSEWHERE AS INTRANSIGENCE, AND WE WANTED TO COUNSEL STRONGLY AGAINST ANY STATEMENT THAT COULD FAIRLY BE PORTRAYED AS INTRANSIGENCE.

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2. TULUMEN REPLIED THAT TURKMEN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY, WHEN DELIVERING ECEVIT'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM, THAT THE TURKISH POSITION REMAINED THAT WALDHEIM SHOULD CALL FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS TO RESUME; IF WALDHEIM DID NOT ISSUE THAT CALL, THERE WOULD BE NO GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GALINDO POHL. THAT MESSAGE WOULD BE DELIVERED TODAY, WALDHEIM NOT HAVING BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE TURKMEN EARLIER.

- 3. TULUMEN MADE CLEAR THAT THE TURKISH RESPONSE WAS IN ESSENCE AN ACTION AGAINST WALDHEIM IN RETRIBUTION FOR HIS FAILURE TO CALL FOR TALKS -- AN UNFORGIVABLE FAILURE IN TURKISH EYES AND A MAJOR SETBACK TO ECEVIT'S EFFORT FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. WALDHEIM HAD TAKEN A PRO-GREEK, ANTI-TURKISH STANCE WHICH COULD ONLY HELP "GREEK CYPRIOT OBJECTIVES UNRELATED TO A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT" (MEANING THE PRESERVATION OF THE EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY). TULUMEN SAID THEIR UN MISSION HAD PICKED UP REPORTS THAT WALDHEIM HAD BEEN TELLING THIRD COUNTRY DIPLOMATS THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS WERE UNWORKABLE, AND THAT HE HAD DEFENDED HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSALS AS "CONCRETE AND SUBSTANTIAL" BY SAYING THAT SUCH A PHRASE COULD BE APPLIED TO ALMOST ANY PROPOSALS, INCLUDING A NEW TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS. "IF HE IS SO EASILY PERSUADED BY THE GREEK SIDE, "TULUMEN REMARKED, "WHY CAN'T YOU PERSUADE HIM?" HE STRESSED THAT TURKS' EXPERIENCE OF WALDHEIM IS THAT HE MAKES PROMISES BUT DOES NOT LIVE UP TO THEM.
- 4. AT INTERVALS DURING LONG DISCUSSION, POL COUNS REPEATEDLY DREW ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF HANDLING THE PROPOSED GALINDO POHL VISIT IN A MANNER THAT WOULD NOT MAKE TURKEY APPEAR INTRANSIGENT. AT ONE POINT, TULUMEN RESPONDED THAT GALINDO POHL IN ANY EVENT HAD NOT YET EVEN CALLED ON ANY TURKISH CYPRIOT OFFICIALS, AND THAT THE TURKISH EMBASSY AT CONFIDENTIAL

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NICOSIA HAD REPORTED THAT WALDHEIM HAD GIVEN GALINDO POHL VERY RESTRICTIVE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT CONTACTS WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS.

- 5. POL COUNS ASKED IF HE COULD SAY THAT WHILE THE GOT SAW NO GROUNDS FOR A VISIT BY GALINDO POHL IF TALKS HAD NOT BEEN CALLED, THE GOT NONETHELESS DID NOT OBJECT TO GALINDO POHL'S VISITING TURKEY AND WOULD NOT REFUSE TO SEE HIM. TULUMEN SHRUGGED, CHUCKLED, AND AVOIDED REPLYING.
- 6. ON THE SAME DAY AS THIS CALL, THE TURKISH PRESS REPORTED THAT ECEVIT, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 9, WAS ASKED ABOUT A NEWS STORY THAT THE GOT HAD TURNED DOWN A REQUEST BY WALDHEIM TO HOLD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ONTHE CYPRUS PROPOSALS. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY REPLIED: "IN VIEW OF NEWS STORIES IN THE PRESS, I SENT A MESSAGE TO THE HONORABLE WALDHEIM AS SOON AS I RETURNED FROM BULGARIA AND INFORMED HIM THAT WE DID NOT THINK WE HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATION TO THE TFSC ON THIS SUBJECT. I TOLD HIM THAT GIVING IN TO THE PRESSURE OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND NOT CALLING THE INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, NOT ISSUING A NEW CALL TO THE PARTIES TO SIT AT TH NEGOTIATING TABLE, WOULD BRING A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

UPON HIM AND WOULD LEAD TO THE LOSS OF A VERY IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY."

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR TALKS TO NARROW THE GAP HAS BECOME A TURKEY VS. WALDHEIM ISSUE, WITH BOTH SIDES DUG IN. THE TURKS CONCEIVABLY COULD, IF PRESSED, ADOPT THE FALLBACK POSITION OF RECEIVING GALINDO POHL WHILE DISCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A BASIS FOR TALKS. WE WOULD HOPE WALDHEIM MIGHT HAVE A FALLBACK POSITION OR OTHER THOUGHTS ON A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE. HE CLEARLY NEEDS TO TRY TO REBUILD HIS CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY WITH THE TURKS.

8. MEANWHILE, THIS STANDOFF SEEMS TO US TO UNDERLINE THE NEED FOR THE STEPS WE RECOMMENDED IN REF B. CONFIDENTIAL

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